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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

QPIE, G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2755

DATE MAILED:

03/15/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

081852158

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Opie

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/27/09
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. ☐ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____.
3. ☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 14) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 15) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 16) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 17) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 18) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 19) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

This office action is responsive to Amendment A. Claims 1-40 have been amended.

1. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 & 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto (US Patent 5,835,765) in view of Kubo (U.S. Patent 5,881,284).

As to claim 1, Matsumoto teaches a method of controlling memory usage (effectively utilizing the primary storage, c19 l37-51) in a computer system having limited physical memory (storage area has a finite size, c9 l5-7) wherein one or more application programs execute in conjunction with an operating system (execute plural application programs in parallel, Id.) the method comprising: wielding operating system control over said one or more application programs to minimize memory usage (resource manager 15 checks the amount of memory used (S114), c16 l28-35). Matsumoto does not teach the multiple memory thresholds in connection with controlling applications. Kubo teaches setting a plurality of memory thresholds (threshold values are provided, c4 l16-23). Also, Kubo teaches (job selector 4 selects ... on the basis of ... the resource utilization, c5 l25-30) which corresponds to the increasingly critical memory thresholds wielding increasing control over the applications. It would have been obvious to combine the multiple threshold scheme as taught by Kubo with the teachings of Matsumoto because an incremental governor provides a systematic escalation of constraints on program operations, thereby facilitating the most efficacious processing of user applications by enabling executions to continue to certain times at which commensurate measures are triggered to maintain system integrity.

As to claim 8, one skilled in the software engineering art, working on memory conservation, would have included a provision for discarding read-only memory. The practice of efficiently managing memory directs disposal of storage sections

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that are not currently in use so that other pages can utilize the unused locations which are reserved but not needed/exploited.

3. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto (US Patent 5,835,765) in view of Kubo (US Pat 5,881,284) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Bishop et al. (U.S. Patent 5,826,082).

As to claim 2, Bishop teaches at a less critical memory threshold (resource manager determines in decision block 204, c4 l52-62) interacting with at least one of the application programs to limit its use of memory (suspend a prior request, Id.). Bishop does not teach the termination condition. Matsumoto teaches at a more critical memory threshold, terminating at least one of the application programs without allowing its further execution (storage area has a finite size. When a program is executed exceeding this finite size, the program ends immediately and an abnormal end (error) is generated, c9 l5-7). It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Bishop with Matsumoto as modified because the initial memory limitation on an application allows the system to maintain operations and reduce memory use, instead of immediately employing drastic measures (i.e. terminating an application).

4. Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto (US Patent 5,835,765) in view of Kubo (US Pat 5,881,284) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Kannan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,815,702).

As to claim 3, Kannan teaches prompting a user to designate at least one of the applications programs (prompt 400 provides instructions 411, c7 l34-48) and then requesting it to close itself (user close 319 the application, which in turn causes the operating system 111 to terminate 321 the application 105 and reclaim any of its resources, c8 l4-13). It would have been obvious to combine Kannan with Matsumoto because the user's control over application operation/termination allows saving data that might otherwise have perished when the application was eliminated.

As to claim 4, Kannan teaches prompting a user to designate at least one of the applications programs (prompt 400, c7 l34-48) and then terminating it without allowing its further execution (terminate the application with End Process button 403, Id.). It would have been obvious to combine Kannan with Matsumoto because the user may have no need of preserving application data and therefore could simply stop that application in order to free system resources.

5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto (U.S. Patent 5,835,765) in view of Kubo (U.S. Patent 5,881,284) as

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applied to claim 1, and further in view of Bishop et al. (U.S. Patent 5,826,082) and Jewett et al. (U.S. Patent 5,317,752).

As to claim 5, note the rejection of claim 2 in regard to the first and second thresholds for the respective limiting and terminating of an application. Jewett teaches (processes ... perform some cleanup activity as required for the particular application, c25 l3-11) which corresponds to at a second memory threshold, requesting at least one of the application programs to close itself. It would have been obvious to combine the cleanup teaching in Jewett with Matsumoto as modified because the severity of the situation may warrant remedial actions that conclude an application while not rising to the level of the harsh eradication of data through termination of an application.

As to claim 6, note the rejections of claims 2-4 above.

7, 9-30

6. Claim ~~7~~ is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto (US Patent 5,835,765) in view of Kubo (US Pat 5,881,284) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Draves et al. (U.S. Patent 5,950,221).

As to claim 7, Draves teaches reclaiming unused stack memory (system also reclaims stack memory, c7 l48-51). It would have been obvious to combine the memory reclamation as taught by Draves with the teachings of Matsumoto as modified by Kubo because the recycling unused stack memory optimizes system storage.

As to claims 9-16, note the discussion of claims 1-8 above. Claims 9-16 are the same as claims 1-8 basically, except claims 9-16 are computer program product claims and claims 1-8 are method claims.

As to claim 17, note the rejections of claims 5-8 above.

As to claims 18 and 19, the recitations regarding the reclaiming and discarding in connection with further thresholds would have been obvious modifications -- variations on claim 17 above.

As to claim 20, note the rejections of claims 3-5 above.

As to claim 21, note the rejection of claim 20, with the difference of the "requiring" in lieu of "prompting" a user to select the respective application conclusion.

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As to claim 22, note the discussion of claim 17 above. Claim 22 is the same as claim 17, except claim 22 is a computer program product claim and claim 17 is a method claim.

As to claim 23, note the discussion of claim 1 above; claim 23 is an apparatus claim and claim 1 is a method claim. Claim 23 is the same as claim 1, but for the added limitation of virtual memory sans secondary storage which is disclosed in the Admitted Prior Art.

As to claims 24-30, note the discussion of claims 2-8 above. Claims 24-30 are the same as claims 2-8 respectively, except claims 24-30 are apparatus claims and claims 2-8 are method claims.

As to claim 31, note the rejection of claim 20 which incorporates the claim 17 discussion too. Claim 31 is the same as claim 20, except claim 31 is an apparatus claim and claim 20 is a method claim.

As to claims 32 and 33, note the rejection of claim 2, which incorporates claim 1 limitations. Claim 32 is the same basically as the features in claim 2 sans the 2nd threshold.

7. ~~34-35~~ Claims 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto (US Patent 5,835,765) in view of Kubo (U.S. Patent 5,881,284) and Bishop et al. (US Pat 5,826,082) as applied to claim 32, and further in view of Kannan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,815,702).

As to claim 34, Kannan teaches sending the message (sends information, c7 l 20) to the application program through its message loop (loop that receives events or messages from the operating system, c4 l53-66). It would have been obvious to combine the messaging as taught by Kannan with the teachings of Matsumoto as modified because the messaging scheme is a preexisting program communications protocol which would facilitate the necessary transmissions.

As to claim 35, Kannan teaches application programs have respective message loops (applications 105 ... include a main event or message loop, c4 l53-66). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to send the message to a particular application program that was least recently active because the least recently used (lru) algorithm has proven to be an efficacious memory management method for removing pages out of storage pursuant to memory constraints.

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As to claims 36-39, note the discussion of claims 32-35 above. Claims 36-39 are the same as claims 32-35, except claims 36-39 are computer program product claims and claims 32-35 are method claims.

8. Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kannan et al. (US Patent 5,815,702) in view of Bishop et al. (US Pat 5,826,082).

As to claim 40, Kannan (c4) teaches an application program (application, such as a word processor) that resides in a computer-readable memory (memory location that stores, for the process that is the application 105) for execution by a processor (processor 119) in -conjunction with an operating system (operating system 111) the application program having a message loop that receives messages from an operating system (message loop that receives events or messages from the operating system) the application program being responsive to a particular message received through its message loop (receives from the operating system ... and provides them to the application). Kannan does not teach the application reducing its memory use.

Bishop teaches an application program ... ~~reduce its current use of memory~~ (resource manager determines in decision block 204 ... suspend a prior request, c4 I52-62). It would have been obvious to combine the memory constraining as taught by Bishop with the teachings of Kannan because the application memory minimization performed through the messaging system is an unobtrusive/transparent scheme for maintaining operations within the storage parameters.

9. The prior art of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure. Each reference disclosed below is relevant to one or more of the Applicant's claimed invention.

U.S. Patent No. 5,210,872 to Ferguson et al. which teaches the correlation of task execution with memory allocation/consumption;

U.S. Patent No. 5,619,656 to Graf which teaches the killing/stopping of programs which exceed system thresholds.

10. Response to Applicant's Arguments:

Applicant argues (claim 1) that the combined system as taught by Matsumoto and Kubo does not meet the limitation of "wielding increasing operating system control over one or more application programs". This is not the case. The rejection of the claims contain a detailed mapping of each claim element with its corresponding equivalent component taught by the cited reference. For instance, the Kubo reference does teach the recited increasing control at increasing thresholds as broadly claimed. Kubo teaches thresholds in

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connection with resource usage, and this plainly relates to the recited critical memory thresholds. The scope of the claimed "at increasingly critical memory thresholds, wielding increasing operating system control" clearly transcends the more narrow scope that Applicant attempts to impute through argument. Claimed subject matter, not the specification is the measure of the invention. Limitations in the specification cannot be read into the claims for the purpose of avoiding the prior art, *In re Self*, 213 USPQ 1,5 (CCPA 1982); *In re Priest*, 199 USPQ 11, 15 (CCPA 1978). The aforementioned claim elements are clearly subject to a broad interpretation, as detailed in the rejections maintained above. The Examiner has a *duty* and *responsibility* to the public and to Applicant to interpret the claims as *broadly as reasonably possible* during prosecution (see *In re Prater*, 56 CCPA 1381, 415F.2d 1393, 162 USPQ 541 (1969)).

Despite Applicant's assertions, the dependent claims remain unpatentable for at least reasons analogous to the discussion of claim 1 *supra*.

Additionally, Applicant argues (claim 40) that the combination of the Kannan and Bishop teachings do not meet the limitation of an application responsive to reduce its current use of memory. Contrary to Applicant's contention, the combined system of Kannan and Bishop does read on the foregoing recitation as broadly claimed. Kannan teaches the application component along with the other claim features except for the memory reduction limitation which is taught by Bishop. Clearly, Kannan's teachings meet the application responsive to OS directives; see col 4, and, Bishop's resource manager minimizes memory usage (c4 l52-62) which functions to reduce memory use. Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness is made through the reasoning and references as applied in the claim rejection.

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. For the reasons detailed above, the rejections set forth in the previous Office Action are maintained.

11. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD

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FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

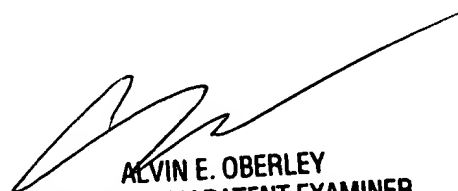
12. Requested Format of Amended Claims:

Please help expedite the prosecution of this application by including the text of all claims which remain in the case in your amendment response. Please label each amended claim as (AMENDED), or (TWICE AMENDED), or (THREE TIMES AMENDED), etc., after the claim number. Please label each unchanged claim (UNCHANGED) after the claim number [meaning the claim is the same as originally filed]. Please label each canceled claim (CANCELED) after the claim number. The text of a canceled claim does not need to be included. This format is not mandatory, however, it will help expedite the processing of your application. Your cooperation is appreciated.

13. Request for copy of Applicant's response on floppy disk:

Please help expedite the prosecution of this application by including, along with your amendment response in paper form, an electronic file copy in WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, or in ASCII text format on a 3 1/2 inch IBM format floppy disk. Please include all pending claims, as detailed above. Only the paper copy will be entered - your floppy disk file will be considered a duplicate copy. Signatures are not required on the disk copy. The floppy disk copy is not mandatory, however, it will help expedite the processing of your application. Your cooperation is appreciated.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Opie whose telephone number is (703) 308-9120.



ALVIN E. OBERLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700